Hello,

For the Module 2.1 discussion, I will focus on Conway’s law with its inherent advantages and disadvantages. So to start, Conway’s law was introduced by Melvin Conway in 1967. He stated that “any organization that designs a system (defined broadly) will produce a design whose structure is a copy of the organization's communication structure” (Fowler). The image below is from Martin Fowler’s article and shows how a group of designers that communicate nationwide would likely design a system as a whole if it followed Conway’s Law.

Fowler believes that accepting Conway’s Law is better than ignoring it. But he goes on to say there are three ways that development usually goes. For the first way, designs are made to not be taking Conway’s Law into account because they are ignorant or ignore it because of the misconception it doesn’t apply. The second way is to accept Conway’s Law and make sure the design doesn’t clash with communication patters. And the last way is called the Inverse Conway Maneuver that has a design to specifically change communication patterns to encourage the desired software architecture (Fowler).

Gilson’s article gave the synopsis of Conway’s Law but was focused on how the ACMI, a museum in Australia, was redesigned to break the law and create something new. Seb Chan was the mind behind the redesign and through an effort of being transparent, loosening organizational hierarch, and empowering those on the frontline brought new value to the museum and gave more value to visitors (Gilson).

From these articles, advantages are shown to be a design that is predictable and how changes may impact the organization as a whole. It also can highlight issues or inefficiencies in an organization that can be improved. To pair with those advantages, the disadvantages are the other side of the coin. Conway’s Law makes the design rigid and not easy to change because those changes will also create inefficiencies. You can leverage Conway’s law to promote collaboration, align teams, and make it visible how restructuring can improve the system as a whole. Hope that was helpful.

Thank you for your time,

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References:

Fowler, M. (2022, October 20). bliki: Conway’s Law. martinfowler.com. <https://martinfowler.com/bliki/ConwaysLaw.html>

Gilson, N. (2022, March 17). What is Conway’s Law? Work Life by Atlassian. <https://www.atlassian.com/blog/teamwork/what-is-conways-law-acmi>